

be inimical to the feelings of some party; there could not exist that halcyon spirit and uniformity of sentiment so essential to obtain the desideratum. If a few practical observations on the causes and effects of machinery, as employed in the building department, will be acceptable to your readers, I shall feel happy to communicate mine. Hoping, Sir, the enthusiastic devotedness I feel in endeavouring to promote your views, i.e. the general good, will be a sufficient apology for the length of this epistle. And trusting your goodness will excuse the liberty I have taken.

I am, Sir, your humble servant,
Gloucester Terrace, W. ATKINSON.
Vauxhall Road, April 24, 1843.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

SIR,—Having seen *THE BUILDER*, and surveyed him with a scrutinizing eye from head to foot, heard what he has to say, and seen him at his work, I consider him to be (in my humble opinion) a most valuable and useful companion, which no mechanic ought to (and I trust ere long will not) be without.

I shall consider it my duty, in my humble and limited sphere of action, to do all that lies in my power to cause it to be more fully known and circulated, by recommending it to the notice of all my acquaintances, and using every means in my power to stimulate them to procure and read it for themselves.

I offer you my sincere thanks for having brought this your valuable work before the public; and I do sincerely hope, and not less sincerely believe, that *THE BUILDER* will be able to prosecute his work till the building he has undertaken has extended throughout the length and breadth of the building world, and its top reached the clouds.

If you think this worthy of a place in your truly valuable work, I shall be very happy to see it appear in your next; but if not, do not encumber *THE BUILDER*'s hands with this lump of useless material, which will not facilitate the raising of the structure, nor grace it when finished. Wishing you every success,

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,
Titchmarsh, April 22nd, 1843. (J. E.)

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

SIR,—We pay little attention to advice, because we are seldom thought of in it; the person who gives it either contents himself to lay down (*ex cathedra*) certain vague general maxims, and "wise saws," which we knew before, or instead of considering what we ought to do, recommends what he himself would do. He merely substitutes his own will, caprice, and prejudices for ours, and expects us to be guided by them. Instead of changing places with us (to see what is best to be done under given circumstances) he insists upon our looking at the question from his point of view, and acting in such a manner as to please him. This is out at all reasonable, for one man's merit, according to the old adage, is another man's passion; and it is not strange, starting from such opposite premises, we should seldom join in a conclusion, and that the art of giving and taking advice is little better than a game at cross purposes."—*Maxims*.

Let me preface the few remarks that I am about to make with the hope that I shall be exonerated from any idea of setting myself up as a dictator on architectural matters, had I even the vanity to come forward in such guise. There is no doubt that your readers would reply as Dean Swift did on a similar occasion to a forward aspirant, and request me "to set down again." But I am well aware, that I do not possess the competent knowledge for so learned an office, and sincerely trust that the thoughts I am about to hazard will meet with indulgence from those that take the trouble to peruse this letter. The aphorism with which I head this, forcibly applies, in my opinion, to architectural discussion, and the offering of advice on architectural subjects. There are very few that like to own the superiority of others, and for that reason very few follow advice, however excellent it may be, as they by so doing tacitly acknowledge their own inferiority, and the greater knowledge of the adviser to the advised. This preamble finished, brings me to the subject I have in view in the thoughts raised in the mind by the letter of your able correspondent Mr. Walheim, on the course of study to be pursued by the architectural student. The student is like a traveller setting out on a long journey: he associates himself on the road with Perseverance, Patience, Study, and Fashion; his destiny is the city of Fame, Perseverance and Study urge him on his path, while Fashion wishes him, as he is poor, to make his abode in the city of Wealth, but Study advises that he first get well known to Fame, and the journey from thence to Wealth is easy and free from danger. Is not this the end of our wishes, the hope that our names may be, as it were, embalmed and live in history—is it not this ambition that supports us when neglected and in poverty? and how is that desired goal to be arrived

at, but by close investigation and application? If the traveller on his journey wishes to slake his thirst, Fashion points out many streams that cross the path, the waters gurgie over their stony and shallow bed, bright and refreshing, but the few drops the wearied traveller obtains in the hollow of his hand, are not sufficient to allay the parched mouth, till Study, arriving to his aid, points out the fountain head from whence the streams descend; Fashion he hastes, and inhales a copious and refreshing draught. So let the student proceed to the Fountain of Architecture, let him investigate and anatomize each style, in all he will find something to admire, something to condemn; let his eye, whilst it roams o'er the varied beauties of each, organize and arrange the whole, so that he give not birth to some monstrous conception, and place the head of the elephant on the body of the cat. He must remember what one of the old writers says, "that a good parlour in Egypt might make a better cellar in England." Let him be zealous in his calling, but also let him eschew bigotry; if his eye finds delight in the classic beauty of the Parthenon, let him not use the language of Sir Henry Wotton, who, speaking of the Gothic arch, says, "On account of their weakness and unsightliness, they ought to be forever excluded out of all buildings." He must remember the twelve qualifications required in an architect, as enumerated by Vitruvius, "that he be doctile and ingenious, literate, skilled in designing, in geometry, optics, arithmetic, history, philosophy, music, medicine, law, and astrology." Should he be an enthusiast, and revel in the romantic beauties of Westminster, let him not condemn the glories of the Athenian Acropolis. A modern architectural writer, speaking of the Temple of Erechthus, situated on the Acropolis, says that it was partly taken from the Temple of Mount Sinai; and in this remark he merely follows in the steps of Villalpanda, who affirms that the Greeks obtained their knowledge of architecture from the Egyptians and Tyrians, the latter of whom were employed merely as artificers in the great work of the temple, and that the rules of architecture were delivered by the Almighty himself to Solomon.

Before I close my letter, might I hazard a conjecture as to the origin of the Corinthian foliated and canaliculated capital. "The invention of this order is ascribed to Callimachus, an Athenian sculptor (by most of the moderns, after Vitruvius), who passing by the tomb of an Athenian lady, over which a basket had been placed covered by a tile (stellæ), the whole having been set on the root of an acanthus, as the plant sprung up, the branches encompassed the basket, and bending down at the top, under the corners of the tile, formed a sort of volute." Might not the supposition be more correct, that the idea was originated from some monumental column placed by the grave and beaded by a sepulchral stellæ; and by referring to Stuart and Gandy, it will be found that the acanthus was a favourite ornament with sculptors for sepulchral adornment. I remain, Sir, yours very respectfully,
April 27, 1843. OFFICINATOR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

SIR,—Your correspondent, Edificans, may see the composition he inquires about in front of Pentonville Prison; it was mixed with gas-tar, Thames gravel, and broken brick, and sifted through a sieve, the mesh of which to be determined by the smoothness of the surface required; it is laid three inches thick, having about two inches of lime rubbish, coarse gravel, or any refuse from the building, underneath. That used for the carriage-way is mixed with a portion of broken granite, and is laid six inches thick. It is best suited to parts not exposed to the sun.

It is somewhat doubtful as to its being waterproof.

I remain, Sir, your very obedient servant,
T. LAUNE,
April 27, 1843. Clerk of Works.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

SIR,—I have before me at this present time the original plans of a building erected in Liverpool, and completed in October, 1827, heated and ventilated by flues built in the thickness of the walls, as shown in Mr. Home's plans, or nearly so. A common strong cast-iron hot hearth was required, and placed at one end of the building for drying certain articles (in common use in the building); the hot hearth was also used without any alteration in the ironwork, for heating the building with hot air. The building is two stories high, of 12 and 11 feet; 112 feet long, by 19 feet wide inside, and is divided on the ground-floor into three rooms and a staircase. The floor above is divided into 14 rooms and the staircase.

The whole building was well warmed and ventilated by this means, and continues so to this day, and, I believe, without any repairs. There cannot be any doubt this plan was in use long before, but I

had not seen it adopted to heating apartments, though I had seen it used years before for ventilation.

Mr. Hope and Mr. Bernhardt may have each easily invented stoves for heating the air, and very different from each other, but I am positive the system was in use in Liverpool upwards of twenty years since; and if either Mr. H. or Mr. B. claim the invention, they will both be, I firmly believe, mistaken. But Mr. H., in his last letter, I think, does not lay claim to the general plan, but to the stove only, which he says is quite different from Mr. B.'s. Who was or is the inventor I cannot tell; but having used the method so long since, and with success, I should not have the least hesitation in adopting the method again to-morrow, and that without any fear of the consequences likely to arise from infringing any person's patent. I can readily satisfy any of your numerous readers with reference to the building, or you, Mr. Editor, with a rough copy of the plans. I am, Sir, in very great haste, your obedient servant,
Rathfriland, 1st May, 1843. T. H. C.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

SIR,—Could you or any of your readers inform me which part of the Royal Hospital at Greenwich was erected under the superintendence of Isidoro Jones?

I would not have troubled you with the question, but I cannot discover which is the part.

The Royal Academy having offered their silver medal for the best drawing of that part, it is of great importance that I should not make any mistake with regard to it.

I am, yours obediently,
AN ARCHITECTURAL STUDENT OF
THE ROYAL ACADEMY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

SIR,—A correspondent of yours, signing himself "W.," in your last week's Journal, inquires if there is any architectural subscription library in London. I feel pleasure in gratifying the wishes of yourself and the inquirer by informing you that a plan has been long maturing, and is nearly perfected, for opening an extensive library both for town and country, a detail prospectus of which will appear in your journal, when quite prepared, and I trust it will merit your valuable support.

I am, Sir, yours respectfully,
A SUBSCRIBER AND ADVERTISER
TO YOUR "BUILDER."

P.S. It may be as well to observe, that nearly all the useful suggestions offered by you are embodied in our plan.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

SIR,—I was highly delighted with the honourable offer made by you in answer to the inquiries of an "bumble mechanic," and should be very happy indeed to see your proposition brought to bear, for the which I tender you my best thanks.

An evening school of this description I have often sought and required for, but in vain.

When I first came to London, I went to the residence of the late "M. A. Nicholson," but to my great disappointment I found that he had exchanged worlds a short time previous. At the same time I procured his excellent work on Handrailing, which you strongly recommended to one of your correspondents in a recent number of *THE BUILDER*.

I myself should esteem it a privilege to have my name enrolled as one to form a class for the acquisition of so useful, and at the same time so exalted and delightful a science.

Wishing you every success in your noble and laudable undertaking,

Believe me ever to remain, yours sincerely,
A WORKING MECHANIC.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

SIR,—Having seen in No. 11 of *THE BUILDER* a letter addressed to you by a carpenter who wishes to obtain a knowledge of staircases as well as a knowledge of architecture, you have had the kindness to suggest, in case a number of young men would form themselves into a class, you would guarantee to bring forward a person of first-rate qualification to instruct them in architectural delineations, &c. now, I, as well as a friend of mine, are anxious of becoming members of such a class, and in case the person you may appoint may consider it necessary for the better illustration of his subjects to have models, we will willingly tender our services in making such as he may suggest.

Your humble servant, W. G.

The site of the Church proposed to be erected at Malvern Link, in the parish of Leigh, has been given by Earl Somers, in addition to a subscription of 500*l*. About 1,300*l*. have been subscribed towards this object, and the farmers of the neighbourhood have undertaken to convey the whole of the building materials to the spot.